

Maintenance Report

July 2018

Grass Cutting

The Maintenance Team are now fully dedicated to regularly cutting approximately 102,924m² of grass. Approx. 49,898m² grass is cut under contract for Oxfordshire County Council and this has recently been invoiced for £5,135.05 + VAT for the 2018 season. Grass cutting will be the Maintenance Teams main focus until October.

Cuttle Brook and Ham Wood

Footpaths are cut regularly through the nature reserve and woodland. Within Cuttle Brook the ditches and stream continue to be checked and cleared of debris following any flood alerts that are issued by the Environment Agency.

The annual grant of £1,500 has been paid to the Cuttle Brook Volunteers (CBV).

A new updated leaflet of Cuttle Brook nature reserve is in the process of being finalised by CBV and will be available as a leaflet and downloadable from both the CBV and Council websites.

Litter Picking

Litter picking has now increased to 7 days per week on Southern Road Recreation Ground, Elms Park, Queen Elizabeth Circle, Skate Park and the Memorial Gardens.

Summer Planting

All 48 hanging baskets have been planted and reinstalled in the Town Centre. The Millennium Circle, the Town Hall, Elms Park, the entrance planters and the flowerbeds in the Memorial Gardens, North Street, Pickenfield and Pearce Way have also been planted. Watering is undertaken by the Maintenance Team early in the morning and at regular intervals dependant on the weather conditions.

Memorial Gardens

Replacement pond filter pumps have been installed into the ponds. These 2 pumps are designed to deliver water to the filter housed adjacent to the ponds which helps to keep the water clean.

The Memorial Gardens raised flower beds have been planted with the carpet bedding design supplied by the specialist contractor.



Southern Road Recreation Ground

The football goal posts have now been removed following the end of the football season.

St Joseph's Primary School have now marked out the running track in preparation for the school sports day.

The cesspit serving the changing rooms and Scout Hut has been emptied and three road gullies have been cleared within the car park.

A new litter bin has been installed close to the recently installed Megan's bench. The new bin replaces a litter bin that had been removed due to damage last year and can be used for both litter and dog waste.

All electrical certification has been received from the contractor who installed the lighting within the car park and the lights are programmed to operate from dusk until 10.30pm, 7 days per week. Timings can be changed by Officers if required, but to date car park users of the nearby community facilities have been satisfied that the timings meet their requirements. Officers submitted an application to SODC for s106 contributions of £16,362.67 which had been allocated to the scheme and this money has now been received.

St Mary's Church

The Maintenance Team continue to cut the grass on a regular basis and in line with the specification for maintenance of the churchyard. The Chairman of the Estates and Community Committee from the church is very pleased with the work that the Maintenance Team have been undertaking and compliments have been passed onto the team.

Elms Park

SODC have no objection to the recently submitted application regarding proposed tree works within the park which requires Conservation Area Consent from the SODC tree officers. Proposed work consists of dead wooding, crown thinning and crown reduction. Some advisory recommendations are detailed to a number of the more mature trees that will require detailed tree inspections by a competent Arboricultural Consultant and this will be arranged by Officers.

Moreton War Memorial

A specialist contractor has recently undertaken the cleaning of the war memorial at Moreton.

Town Hall

A ground floor office window was broken over 11-12 May. The window pane was quickly repaired and the incident reported to the Police.

Bunting was put up around the Town Hall to celebrate the Royal wedding and will be left up to celebrate the many summer community events in the town centre.

A recent incident in the disabled toilet involved the Town Hall being closed for a time whilst the area and foyer were cleaned. This also involved the ordering of a replacement foyer entrance mat.

Tree Works

- Cuttle Brook - The Council's arboricultural contractor has reduced an ash tree by 2m in the car park off Oxford Road. This is in line with mitigating future risk associated with potential subsidence of 1 Oxford Road, as recommended in 2013 by Marshall Thompson & Co. acting for insurers of the property. This particular ash tree is advised to be maintained at a height no greater than 15m and is monitored by Officers on a regular basis.
- Pickenfield – Maple tree – reduced by 25% at rear of 39 Towersey Drive.

Bus Shelters and Street Furniture

Unauthorised signage around the town continues to be removed when seen. The 8 bus shelters around the town have been cleaned and graffiti removed.

Event Support

The Maintenance Team have provided assistance with operations for the following events:

- 6 May – Music in the Park
- 9 June – Thame Carnival
- 29 June – Sports in the Street

Health and Safety

All fire extinguishers within the Council's buildings and vehicles have been serviced.

Routine servicing has been undertaken by a specialist contractor on the fire alarm and emergency lighting at the depot.